

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and added terms are shown with underscoring. Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice and without dedication or abandonment of the subject matter thereof. This listing of claims replaces all prior claim listings for this application.

1. (Currently amended) A parking brake system comprising:

 a casing having a hollow bore formed therein;

 a parking piston slidably fitted into the casing, said parking piston configured and arranged so that a parking brake state of a wheel brake can be obtained by forward movement of the parking piston in the bore in response to a parking control fluid pressure acting on a rear face side of the parking piston;

 a lock mechanism provided within the casing so as to automatically lock in response to forward movement of the parking piston in order to mechanically lock the parking piston at a forward position and unlock in response to a parking release control fluid pressure acting on the lock mechanism, the lock mechanism comprising a lock piston that is slidably fitted into the casing to the rear of the parking piston so that the parking release control fluid pressure can act on the lock piston toward the rear and a spring provided in a compressed state between the lock piston and the casing so as to exhibit a spring force that urges the parking piston to move forward;

 a fluid pressure source;

 and a fluid pressure control mechanism for controlling a fluid pressure generated by the fluid pressure source so that the parking control fluid pressure and the parking release control fluid pressure can be obtained;

 an opening provided in a portion of the casing that the rear side of the lock piston faces being closed by a separate, detachable lid member, a tool connection part being provided in a rear

portion of the lock piston, and the tool connection part enabling a tool inserted through the opening to be detachably connected to the tool connection part, wherein

the tool is configured to be inserted through the opening from the outside of the casing and connected to the tool connection part to enable manual operation of the lock piston via the tool,

a front face of the parking piston faces an air chamber defined within the casing,

the spring is provided in a spring chamber formed between a rear face of the lock piston and the casing,

a first communication passage communicating with the spring chamber extends axially through the lock piston, and a second communication passage communicating the first communication passage with the air chamber is provided in the parking piston,

the opening provided in the casing communicates with the spring chamber, and

the tool connection part is an internal thread formed on a rear part of an inner face of the first communicating passage.

2. (Currently amended) The parking brake system of claim 1, wherein the detachable lid member [[tool]] is a bolt screw fitted into the opening provided in the casing.

3. (Previously presented) The parking brake system of claim 2, wherein the opening is provided in a rear end wall of the casing.

4. (Previously presented) The parking brake system of claim 1, wherein the tool connection part comprises an internal thread on a rear part of an inner face of a communicating passage in the lock piston.

5. (Previously presented) The brake system of claim 4, wherein one end portion of the tool is

threaded for connection to the internal thread on the rear part of the inner face of the communicating passage in the lock piston.

6. (Previously presented) The parking brake system of claim 1, wherein the tool includes a handle which extends outwardly of the casing when the tool is connected to the tool connection part, and the handle is configured to be manually moved rearwardly to draw the locking piston rearward for releasing the parking brake state.

7. (Previously presented) The brake system of claim 1, wherein the opening in the casing has a larger diameter than a diameter of the tool.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A parking brake system comprising:

a casing having a hollow bore formed therein;

a parking piston slidably fitted into the casing so that a parking brake state of a wheel brake can be obtained by forward movement in response to a parking control fluid pressure acting on a rear face side of the parking piston;

a lock mechanism provided within the casing so as to automatically lock in response to forward movement of the parking piston to thereby mechanically lock the parking piston at a forward position thereof and unlock in response to a parking release control fluid pressure acting on the lock mechanism, the lock mechanism comprising a lock piston slidably fitted into the casing to the rear of the parking piston so that the parking release control fluid pressure can act on the lock piston toward the rear and a spring provided in a compressed state between the lock piston and the casing so as to exhibit a spring force urging the parking piston to move forward;

a fluid pressure source;

and a fluid pressure control mechanism for controlling a fluid pressure generated by the fluid pressure source so that the parking control fluid pressure and the parking release control fluid pressure can be obtained;

an opening provided in a portion of the casing that the rear side of the lock piston faces and a lid member detachably fitted to the casing so as to close the opening, the opening being coaxial with a tool connection part provided in a rear portion of the lock piston, and the tool connection part configured to have a tool inserted through the opening to be detachably connected to the tool connection part;

wherein the tool is configured to be manually moved against the force of the spring to release the lock piston from the parking brake state;

the lid member comprises a bolt; and

one end of the tool is configured to be connected to the tool connection part.

10. (Previously presented) The parking brake system of claim 9, wherein the tool connection part is formed in a passage extending through the lock piston that also acts as a communication passage between an air chamber and a spring chamber.

11. (Previously presented) The parking brake system of claim 9, wherein a rear portion of the tool comprises a handle which is disposed outside of the casing when the tool is connected to the tool connection part, and the tool also comprises a front portion insertable into the opening to contact the connection part.

12. (Previously presented) The brake system of claim 11, wherein

a front face of the parking piston faces an air chamber defined within the casing;

the spring is provided in a spring chamber formed between a rear face of the lock piston and the casing,

a first communication passage communicating with the spring chamber extends axially through the lock piston, and a second communication passage communicating the first communication passage with the air chamber is provided in the parking piston,

the opening provided in the casing communicates with the spring chamber, and

the tool connection part is an internal thread formed on a rear part of an inner face of the first communicating passage.